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Sweet Briar College

Newsletter

Journal of Sweet Briar College

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Admissions Statistics Show Increase

The Sweet Briar Admissions Director, Nancy Baldwin, reports that the acceptance of new students for next fall is up over 16% compared to the same time last year.

As of May 1st, Mrs. Baldwin said that "we have 30 more students this year than last and a sizeable number of applications which are currently being processed. In fact, applications are still coming in at a steady rate even though the deadline has passed."

She noted that a higher percentage of students who are accepted for study at Sweet Briar are actually enrolling. This was attributed to a trend in which college-bound students are applying only to those colleges they really want to attend.

The quality of the applicants is very good and is being reflected in the makeup of the new class which includes three National Merit scholars.

Students are enrolling from Japan, Scotland, France, Mexico, Turkey, England, Switzerland, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Germany. They range throughout the United States including Hawaii and a larger than usual contingent from California.

One of the most important programs during the year, Mrs. Baldwin feels, was the "Winter Weekend" in which students from Delaware to South Carolina were invited to visit Sweet Briar for a weekend, to live in the dorms, participate in activities with students and faculty, and generally experience college life.

"It was so successful that we're going to do it again next year," she said. "I think it helped us immeasurably."

As of the end of March, Admissions representatives had visited 1,031 high schools throughout the country to talk with prospective students about Sweet Briar. At that time, numerous schools remained on the docket for visits.

The office now employs a new and useful electronic tool for the purpose of introducing students to Sweet

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photos by Ty Dahl

Miss Marsha Phillips (left) of Murray Hill, N. J. and Miss Susan Fitzgerald (right) of Spartanburg, S.C. share all the smiles and anxious moments which accompany graduation. The pair received their degrees as part of the largest graduating class in the history of Sweet Briar. The Class of 1974 became alumnae during the 65th Commencement Exercises held on May 19.

Largest Class Graduates

It was a short conferment on that spring day in 1910 as the first graduates of Sweet Briar—all five of them—received their degrees.

This month, President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr. presented the Bachelor of Arts to the largest graduating class in the history of Sweet Briar College during a morning ceremony. One hundred seventy-two seniors were degree candidates.

A Sweet Briar alumna, Mrs. Catherine Cox Reynolds, delivered the address, "A Lifetime of Choices," during the 65th Commencement exercises. Mrs. Cox is the mayor of West Hartford, Connecticut, the first woman ever to hold that office. An English major with a love of drama while at Sweet Briar, she decided against a career as an actress. She worked with politics in a

volunteer capacity for a number of years before becoming a candidate for Town Council in 1971 and mayor in 1973. She won the title of "top vote-getter" in both contests.

The Baccalaureate Service, held the afternoon before, was conducted by The Reverend Myron B. Bloy, Jr., Executive Director of the Church Society for College Work. The author of *The Crisis of Cultural Change*, Rev. Bloy has conducted extensive research on religion and higher education.

Seniors and their invited guests were honored at a garden party hosted by President and Mrs. Whiteman after the service. Dinner and dancing in the Wailes Center capped the senior's last evening before their Sweet Briar graduation.

Admissions

(continued from page 1)

Briar. A slide-tape program, which presents a thorough overview of the College and its distinct advantages, has been prepared so that the self-contained unit fits into a brief case-size carrying case.

Persons interested in obtaining the portable unit for use in their homes, high schools or alumnae club meetings should contact Mrs. Baldwin in care of the Admissions Office.

Art Professors Exhibit Works

Two professors of art, **Loren Oliver**, Chairman of the Art Studio Department, and **Raymond L. Twiddy, III**, Assistant Professor of Art, have shown recently in several exhibitions.

Both professors were represented in the Group Show at the Cross and Callahan Gallery in New York City, and the 39th Semi-Annual Southeastern Juried Competition for Painting and Sculpture. In the latter, only 70 artists' works were selected out of nearly 700 entrants from 11 states.

Professor Oliver also exhibited in the 10th Piedmont Graphics Exhibition at the Mountain Museum of Art in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Armstrong Architecture Article Appears

An article entitled "Constantine's Churches: Symbol and Structure" by **Dr. Gregory T. Armstrong**, Associate Professor of Religion and Chairman of the Religion Department, was published in the March issue of the *Journal of Architectural Historians*.

Dr. Armstrong traced the development of the five major types of structure in the churches of Constantine which, he pointed out, are "often in combination with one another but each with its own particular symbolic value."

The professor produced detailed examinations of each of the five main types in chronological order complete with numerous floor plan drawings and architectural photographs.



Mrs. Harold B. Whiteman, Jr.

Mrs. Whiteman Elected To Vanderbilt Board

Mrs. Harold B. Whiteman, Jr., wife of the president of Sweet Briar College, has been elected as one of two alumni trustees on the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust.

Mrs. Whiteman was the only woman among the slate of six nominees which included Nobel Prize winner Stanford Moore. The alumni trustees serve a four-year term and can be re-nominated by the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association for one additional term.

Mrs. Whiteman is a former "Miss Vanderbilt" and was an English major, a member of the Athletic Board, Lotus Eaters, Tri-Arts, Athenians and the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Since her graduation from Vanderbilt, Mrs. Whiteman, with her husband, has been closely associated with the field of higher education. It has included one year at Taft School in Connecticut, a year at Vanderbilt, 16 years at Yale University and seven at New York University.

At Sweet Briar, she serves on the Student Center Committee, the Friends of the Arts (which she helped organize), and the Summer Programs Committee as well as hostess for many college functions.

She attributes her qualifications for Trustee of Vanderbilt to her association with Sweet Briar. "If one had asked me three years ago," she said, "I would not have felt worthy of this responsibility. But after these years at Sweet Briar, I feel very capable of making a contribution in this capacity."

Mrs. Whiteman is a trustee of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation in Staunton, Va. and the Alliance Francaise in Lynchburg, Va.

Sweet Briar Initiates Automobile Rental Program For Students

"If there's another college in the whole country providing a service like this, I don't know about it," said Peter V. Daniel, Vice President and Treasurer for Sweet Briar College.

The service he spoke of is a college-run rental system which provides automobiles to Sweet Briar students at a cost far below commercial rates and, in fact, makes rental cars available to students under 21 years of age which is not possible with any commercial car-rental agency.

The plan came under consideration by Sweet Briar College some two years ago after a number of students complained of the lack of mobility to and from the campus which is located on 3,300 rolling acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, 12 miles north of the city of Lynchburg in what students call "rural Virginia."

Extensive inquiries and negotiations by the college revealed that no commercial automobile rental agency was interested in renting to the under-21 age group.

At that point, Mr. and Mrs. L. Barnes Brockman of Amherst (Ford) Motors Company, Amherst, Va., who knew of Sweet Briar's efforts, offered to donate two new Ford automobiles to the college for the purpose of rental.

Through the generosity of this Ford dealer, Sweet Briar now has two green Maverick sedans "designated M-2 and M-4 because one is a 2-door and the other a 4-door," the Vice President grinned. They also have automatic transmissions, radios, and one is equipped with air conditioning and power steering.

Mr. Daniel further explained that the college is able to charge its students less than the commercial rate because the cars are donated, saying, "we only want to clear our expenses."

The rates are indeed reasonable. In a memo to the students outlining the new rental program, Mr. Daniel listed the following rates: \$.50 per hour (\$2.50 minimum) or 24 hours for \$8 and \$.10 per mile.

The fees are comprehensive and gasoline costs are included in the rental. A maximum of 48 hours has been set for each rental, "but that's still plenty of time for a weekend away if the student chooses," the official said.

(continued)



Mrs. Ann Reams (left) with Mrs. Elizabeth Wood

photo by Ty Dahl

Administration Reorganizes

Sweet Briar College President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr. has announced an administrative reorganization which places an alumna in the highest position ever held at the college by a Sweet Briar graduate.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bond Wood, Jr., formerly Director of Sweet Briar's award-winning Alumnae Association, has been named Director of the Office of College Development.

"This is a vice-presidential-level appointment," Dr. Whiteman said, "making her, so far as I know, the highest woman college administrator in Virginia. Development is a field in which men have taken precedence until now."

"I am delighted that Mrs. Wood is willing to take on this very important responsibility," the president continued. "Her experience in the development field through the alumnae fund clearly shows her to be the one person on campus to take it over."

Under Mrs. Wood's direction since her appointment in the academic year 1955-56, the annual alumnae fund has grown from \$26,000 to \$250,000; total alumnae giving is up from \$41,000 to \$500,000 last year; the number of alumnae clubs has increased from 43 to 49 and alumnae representatives from 175 to 275; the number of endowed scholarships mushroomed from two to 41 and the corpus of endowed scholarship funds has risen from \$10,000 to \$426,000.

Mrs. Ann Morrison Reams of Lynchburg, also a Sweet Briar alumna, will move up from her post as Associate Director of the Alumnae Association to become its Director. Mrs. Reams is a past president of the

Lynchburg Junior League and former President of the Board of the Florence Crittenton Home.

Mrs. Wood, as Director of College Development will have responsibility for all external affairs conducted by the college and will form the administrative umbrella over the Alumnae Office, the Public Relations Office, the Fund Office and College publications.

The Public Relations Office will have the former Assistant Director, Tyrus Dahl, Jr., as acting Director in lieu of Miss Martha von Briesen who is on a personal leave of absence. Miss von Briesen will continue to serve as a part-time consultant in the area of public relations and publications. Moving into the slot of Assistant Director is Miss Sandra Tesar, a recent graduate of Miami University of Ohio.

The Fund Office will be headed directly by Mrs. Wood. The new Associate Director of College Development is Mark Whittaker who, before spending last year at the University of Massachusetts, was Sweet Briar's Assistant Director of Development.

Also in that office is Mrs. Julia Mills Jacobsen who will continue as Coordinator of Government Relations, while doing more work in the area of foundation research and Mrs. Julia Sadler de Coligny who has responsibility for the Estate Planning Program. Both women are graduates of Sweet Briar.

And finally, Dr. Langley Wood has taken on publication duties which include the preparation of five major external administrative publications.

Students Aid Faculty Salaries

Sweet Briar students initiated the first student telephone campaign in the history of the college last month in order to raise money for faculty salaries. The campaign was dubbed the "Briar Line" and an attempt was made to call every alumna from the years 1950-1973, although a number of them were out of the country, unlisted, or not at home.

Seated at a bank of 15 telephones for seven nights, calling the more western time zones as the hour grew later, the students obtained pledges of over \$20,500.

Almost half of all the alumnae of those years made gifts and two promised \$1,000 each.

A Sweet Briar junior, Wendy Wise of Bedford, N.Y., explained that students are now realizing the importance of gifts to the college. It was borne out by the fact that nearly 10% of the student body participated in the drive.

Miss Wise attributed Sweet Briar's ability to remain "in the black" for 73 consecutive years to strong financial management and gifts from alumnae, parents and friends. "That is a claim very few colleges can make," she said.

In addition to supporting their faculty, the students reported that conversations between them and the alumnae produced good will on all sides. Alumnae seemed more willing to "open up" with a current student and ask about "what is REALLY going on at Sweet Briar."



photo by Ty Dahl

"\$1,000!"

Miss Nan Stuart, a rising senior from Bellevue, Idaho, reacts with delight as she receives a pledge from a generous alumna. Students telephoned alumnae from the classes of 1950 through 1973 during the "Briar Line" campaign which they initiated to raise money for faculty salaries. Two alumnae pledged \$1,000 to boost the total raised by the students to over \$20,500.

Automobiles

(continued)

Liability and comprehensive insurance is maintained on both cars, but not collision coverage. Therefore students are responsible for any loss or damage to the automobiles.

"Frankly," Mr. Daniel said, "the plan is somewhat risky and if I were at some other college, I probably wouldn't try it. But we have a great deal of faith in Sweet Briar students and their sense of responsibility. It is through their cooperation that the program will reap success."

"We hope," he continued, "that the students will be pleased with this arrangement and it is our sincere wish that this new program will be enjoyed by and get a great deal of use from all members of the student body."

Reaction by the students has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

One math major was quick to point out that she "and three friends can drive into Lynchburg, go shopping, have dinner and go to a movie at a transportation cost of only \$1.18 apiece including tax!"

In addition to the automobiles which will be for the private use, business or pleasure, of the students, Sweet Briar is also making its mini-buses, which carry nine to twelve passengers, available at similar rates for students to use in attending cultural events within a 100-mile radius of the college and to Washington, D.C., and Williamsburg, Va. which lie outside the radius.

Referring to the newly instituted program, sophomore Candi Casey of Greenwich, Conn. said, "It's great! I love it!"

Sweet Briar Hosts Summer Tennis

Sweet Briar Tennis College presents Dennis Van der Meer in residence at the annual tennis college held here. Adult clinics will be from June 30-July 6 and July 7-13. A Junior clinic will run from June 16-22.

Direct inquiries about the tennis college and fees to Claire Hagen, Coordinator; Department of Physical Education; Sweet Briar College; Sweet Briar, Virginia, 24595. Telephone: (804) 381-5564.



Dean Catherine Sims

Dean Sims To Be Honored In Scotland

On July 4th, Dean Catherine S. Sims will be presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Literature by St. Andrews University in Scotland. In a column which appeared in an Edinburgh, Scotland newspaper following the announcement, Wilfred Taylor observed: "We trust that when the public orator presents Mrs. Sims he will garland his encomia with poesis." We could not agree more.

Student Honors

DEAN'S LIST. Seniors: Kristin Amylon, Victoria Bates, Nancy Blackwell, Marcia Brandenburg, Elisabeth Burton, Jonita Carder, Margaret Christian, Christine Cummings, Jennifer Erickson, Karen Greer, Mary Halsey, Nancy Hardt, Sandra Herring, Alice Hodges, Sandra Horwege, Pamela Hughes, Jane Hutcherson, Maureen Hynes, Linda Kemp, Laura Kreckler, Brenda Latchford, Karin Lawson, Teresa Lear, Cecilia Linebaugh, Jane Maloney, Sharon Mangus, Eugenia Manning, Catherine Matheson, Ann McKie, Edith McRee, Tana Meier, Jere Mundy, Virginia Nolte, Illona Petrovits, Mary Reid, Susan Rhymmer, Christine Sherwood, Jennifer Smith, Anya Starosolsky, Jesse Stewart, Susan Stubbs, Sandra Taylor, Kathryn Telfer, Rose Thomas, Helen Travis, Gabrielle Urbano-wicz, Cathy Weiss, Christine Weiss, Cheryl Willits, Mary Witt.

Juniors: Joanna Arias, Elizabeth Brooks, Sarah Clement, Marsha Clements, Penelope Czarra, Carolyn Foster, Linda Frazier, Deborah Gabriel, Kathleen Gooch, Patricia Goolsby, Catherine Grier, Cynthia Hardy, Virginia Holden, Somurai Jiaravanont, Regina Jones, Bonnie Mayberry, Mai Nguyen, Kathy Orr, Elizabeth Rawles, Anne Stokes, Juliana Tu, Linda Wheeler.

Sophomores: Karen Adelson, Sallie Bernard, Catherine Catlett, Hilda Dent, Susan Elzinga, Dianne Horn, Mary Jackson, Jane Ju, Ann Kiley, Kathleen McCall, Marilyn McClelland, Katherine Mikell, Adele Neal, Tennessee Nielsen, Mary Porter, Dianne Powell, Cornelia Radford, Linda-Jean Smith, Ann Stryker, Gladys Van Horn, Valery Warren, Holly Weaver, Rebecca Wilson, Mary Woodford, Gail Zarwell.

PHI BETA KAPPA, elected in February, **Seniors:** Laurie Epstein, Cynthia Hardy, Brenda Crews, Karin Lawson, Eugenia Manning, Illona Petrovits, Cathy Weiss, Christine Weiss. **Juniors:** Elizabeth Brooks, Sarah Clement, Lynn Norris.



photo by Ty Dahl

Mrs. Joanne Harrier Barker (left) and Mrs. Betty Rau Schewel, both Sweet Briar alumnae from Lynchburg, Va., admire bulbs from Holland on the Sweet Briar campus which are sold each year by alumnae for the benefit of the scholarship program. The selling of flower bulbs began 23 years ago with the Washington, D.C. Alumnae Club and has since become a successful project of the Alumnae Office at Sweet Briar. Over \$1 million has been raised in this way to support 39 endowed scholarships and 16 annual ones. Complete color catalogs of bulbs may be obtained by writing the Alumnae Office, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia, 24595.

Freshman Honors

FRESHMAN HONOR LIST: Ramona Kaye Akins, Vera Blake, Sarah Bruce, Diane Catanzaro, Alicia Clegg, Anita Crossingham, Denise Etheridge, Rebecca Frost, Kimberly Goldwasser, Mary Greaves, Elaine Griffin, Carrie Griscom, Carla Kinney, Deborah Koss, Phooi-Ching Lai, Leslie Laurien, Elizabeth Little, Anne Marshall, Clarissa Nielsen, Marsha Scott, Deborah Thacker, Laurie Trenholm, Anne Tschudy, Patricia Waters, Swineetha Weerasingha.

Professors Join Archeological Dig

Two Sweet Briar College Professors, Dr. Gregory T. Armstrong, Associate Professor of Religion and Chairman of the Department, and Dr. Kenneth T. Wright, Jr., Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Greek and Latin, will be participating in an archeological expedition to King Herod's capital city of Caesarea Maritima in early summer. The buried city once served as a principal Roman port in the eastern Mediterranean and Palestine's seat of government for 600 years.

It was at Caesarea that Pontius Pilate had his official residence, Peter converted the centurion, Paul was imprisoned, the philosopher Origen found refuge and an estimated 20,000 Jews were martyred.

The ancient city, situated on the Israeli coast half-way between the modern ports of Haifa and Tel-Aviv, once had a population of a quarter of a million in an area half the size of Manhattan. It boasted a coliseum larger than Rome's, a port capable of sheltering the entire Roman fleet, a hippodrome seating 30,000 for chariot races and an untold number of public buildings, colossal statues, and fountains.

Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Wright will be part of an expedition headed by Professor Robert Bull of Drew University in New Jersey. The two Sweet Briar professors plan to fly to Istanbul on their way to the archeological dig in order to visit the museums, mosques and churches, and a circuit of sites of historical and religious interest in Turkey which relate to the professors' work at the college. A stopover in Athens is also scheduled before their return to the United States.

Because most of Caesarea Maritima still lies in ruins beneath 12 feet of shifting sand, it remains a principal



photo by Val Gordon, '74

Professor Garo Z. Antreasian, world famous lithographer from the Tamarind Institute at the University of New Mexico, demonstrates his art and the techniques of printmaking on the combination lithography and etching press which was a gift to the Art Studio Department from an alumna, Mrs. Jean Van Home Baber of Philadelphia, Pa. Students viewing the demonstration are, from left to right, Noni Petrovits of Marstons Mills, Mass., Marsha Phillips of Murray Hill, N. J., and Anne Stokes of Bethesda, Md. The artist, whose works hang in major museums throughout the U.S., was on the campus for four days to lecture and offer individual critiques to art students.

attraction in the archeological world and reportedly offers near-idyllic conditions for scrupulous research.

The Sweet Briar professors will be undertaking a survey of the huge hippodrome in addition to excavation of the intricate sea-flushed sewer system that probably holds the key to the street plan.

Initial probes of the hippodrome showed it to be much larger than originally supposed and caused estimates of seating capacity to be raised from 20,000 to 30,000. Several dramatic architectural features have also been identified including an obelisk almost 90 feet tall and carved from a single piece of granite that once crowned the central wall or "spina" (spine) on the stadium floor. Also identified were the massive 20-foot-high granite cones which the racing chariots turned round at the end of each quarter-mile straight-away.

A large Byzantine hall of records has been unearthed along with a jewel-like amphitheatre where modern symphony orchestras and opera com-

panies now perform. A complex of barrel vaults near the harbor is considered one of the most important "finds." The quonset hut-like structures are as much as 90 feet long and 16 feet wide. The complex consists of at least 20 vaults and the nearby dunes are thought to hide a number of other such complexes.

Only six of the vaults, however, have been opened. One of these turned out to be a Mithraeum, or shrine for the worship of the ancient Persian god Mithra, god of light and truth, who later became a favorite of the Roman military establishment. The walls of the Mithraeum had been plastered and decorated with frescoes, now almost totally obliterated by time and salt air.

The site has already produced bountiful yields including thousands of coins and other artifacts not only from the Roman period but also from subsequent Byzantine, Arab, and Crusader occupations.

Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Wright plan to complete their journey, begun this month, by mid-July.

Campus Notes

Dr. Robert G. Marshall, Director of the Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France program, was elected Chairman of the Virginia Council for Study Abroad at its annual meeting held recently in Lexington, Va.

The Council is composed of more than 30 colleges and universities throughout Virginia as well as representatives from the State Council of Higher Education, the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges, the Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia and the Foreign Language Service of the State Department of Education.

Associate Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Barbara Blair, has been named as the 1974 Chairman of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Blair was Treasurer of the organization in 1971, Secretary in 1972, Chairman-Elect in 1973.

Dr. Blair also serves as Assistant Dean of Sweet Briar.

Columnist Mary McGrory wrote last month of a "heroine . . . a very proper bureaucrat at the National Archives" in Washington. The heroine is a Sweet Briar alumna. Mrs. Mary McCandlish Livingston, '34, and the story is her meticulous work as supervisory archivist which resulted in exposing a back-dated deed for Presidential papers which, in turn, caused Richard Nixon to change his tax returns. The column referred to Mrs. Livingston as "a woman of conscience who cannot be stamped out of channels by the mention of the White House."

Miss Constance Scott, daughter of Mrs. Anne P. Scott of Richmond, Va. took first place at the Virginia Federation of Music Club's Student Choreographic Competition held recently at Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

Miss Scott choreographed as well as performed in the winning duet "Erie Angles." Her dance partner was Miss Ella Hanson of Amherst, Va., a junior at Sweet Briar.

Dr. Maria Embeita, Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish, recently published an article in "Tauta" (Madrid, Spain). Entitled "Novela y ciudad," the article is part of a book, "La Generacion del 98" which the noted professor has in progress.

Jennifer Erickson, '74, of Bel Air, Md., has been selected for the Federal Summer Intern Program with the Securities and Exchange Commission where she will receive practical experience in a phase of Federal activity related to her individual career field.

A Sweet Briar senior, Miss Boyd Zenner was co-winner of the first prize in the Hollins Literary Festival. Her entry, "In My Mother's House," was selected from hundreds of entries from across the country. Miss Wendelin White, also a senior, was awarded the poetry prize by Appalachian Heritage magazine for her poem, "Cavity," which will be published in the spring issue. Ms. Jan Haagensen of the class of 1968 was co-winner of first prize for poetry in The Eleventh Annual Wallace Stevens Program for "A Drinking Glass."

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